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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 018976-206

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
 )  
Makoto KITAMURA et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1732  
 )  
Application No.: 10/000,012 ) Examiner: Stephen J. Lechert, Jr.  
 )  
Filed: December 4, 2001 ) Confirmation No: 7969  
 )  
For: POWDER PRESS FORMING )  
 APPARATUS AND METHOD OF )  
 POWDER PRESS FORMING )  
 )

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: April 30, 2003

Sir:

This election is filed in response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2003 (Paper No. 4). In the Office Action, the Examiner identified two distinct inventions. The Examiner required the Applicants, under 35 U.S.C. §121, to elect a single invention for prosecution. The two inventions identified by the Examiner are:

- I) Claims 1-16, 20 and 21, drawn to an apparatus,
- II) Claims 17-19, drawn to a method.

Pursuant to the Examiner's requirement, the Applicants elect Group I, directed to claims 1-16, 20 and 21. It is understood that claims 17-19 will be withdrawn from prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications.

An earlier examination and favorable action on claims 1-16, 20 and 21 are respectfully requested.

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In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 30, 2003